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NATIONAL MILITARY PARK AT VALLEY FORGE, PA.

HEARING

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BEFORE THE

U. S. Congress. Senate.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

OF THE

UNITED STATES SENATE,

JANUARY 29, 1902,

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

IN RELATION TO THE BILL (S. 614) TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL MILITARY PARK AT VALLEY FORGE, PA.

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NATIONAL MILITARY PARK AT VALLEY FORGE, PA.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 29, 1902.*

The committee met at 11 o'clock a. m.

Present: Senators Hawley (chairman), Proctor, Burrows, Scott, Bate, and Pettus.

Also, delegations representing the Valley Forge National Park Association, the Daughters of the Revolution, General Society, The Maryland Local Society, the Colorado Local Society, and the Sons of the Revolution.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen, we have a quorum here. We may as well begin the hearing. The clerk will read the bill which gives cause for this meeting, the bill upon which our friends desire to be heard.

The clerk read the bill (S. 614) to establish a national military park at Valley Forge, Pa., as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That upon the State of Pennsylvania ceding to the United States the land held by it, being part of the camp ground of General Washington at Valley Forge, and jurisdiction thereover as well as over such other land as may be acquired pursuant to the provisions of this act, the President is hereby authorized to appoint ten commissioners, to be known as commissioners of the Valley Forge National Military Park, to locate definitely and by metes and bounds, the territory occupied by George Washington as a camping ground at Valley Forge, in the State of Pennsylvania; the said commissioners shall have their office in Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, and while on duty shall be paid such compensation out of the appropriation provided in this act as the Secretary of War shall deem reasonable and just.

SEC. 2. That there is hereby appropriated the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be expended in acquiring for the United States, by purchase or condemnation, the territory so located by said commissioners, and for the improvement of said territory, and the said territory so acquired shall be designated and known as the Valley Forge National Military Park.

The CHAIRMAN. Ladies and gentlemen, we are very glad to see you. Speaking for myself, I am a friend of Philadelphia and everybody in the neighborhood, and a friend of this enterprise. Who shall speak for you, as they say, to a jury?

STATEMENT OF MR. JOHN CADWALLADER, PRESIDENT OF THE VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION.

Mr. CADWALLADER. Mr. Chairman, I will make a few remarks.

The CHAIRMAN. You are the president of this association?

Mr. CADWALLADER. I am the acting president of the organization called the Valley Forge National Park Association. It is perhaps better that I should state the character of that association, and to show you how little it is individually interested.

It is an organization composed of representatives of the historical societies or organizations known as the Sons of the Revolution, Daughters of the Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, and Daughters of the American Revolution. The organization is very widespread throughout the United States, some twenty-eight or thirty organizations being represented by delegates who have united for the purpose of urging upon the Government of the United States the acquisition of this land, which is of such an extraordinarily interesting character.

Some of the papers and maps which will be laid before you are, unfortunately, delayed on the train, owing to the storm. But in looking at the beautiful picture over one of the doorways of this room, representing the encampment at Valley Forge, it seems peculiarly appropriate, as that picture very well represents the incident of the encampment of 1777–78.

These bodies thought it was wise to concentrate their efforts through a common organization to urge this matter, and when it is accomlished that will be the end of the organization. I may say that not a single member of the organization has the most remote personal interest in the matter.

I have here blue-print maps giving the details of the lines of the property involved, which can be examined by any members of the committee.

What I have to say will be brief, and I wish to state further that representatives of some of the organizations concerned are delayed on the train by the storm.

The conditions at Valley Forge are probaly known to some of you, if not to all.

Senator BURROWS. Let me ask you about this organization right there. Is it a voluntary association?

Mr. CADWALLADER. A voluntary association.

Senator BURROWS. It has no articles of incorporation or anything of that sort?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Nothing of that sort.

Senator BURROWS. It is purely voluntary?

Mr. CADWALLADER. It is organized for the purpose of concentrating our efforts and bringing the matter before Congress, and supplying such information as may be desired or can be offered.

Senator BATE. If this land is purchased, who is to keep it up in the future if there is to be no organization?

Mr. CADWALLADER. The bill appoints commissioners. It is in the regular form of a military park. That is the form of bill that was preferred by the representatives both of the House and Senate, when this matter was before them at the last session of Congress. The commissioners to be appointed under the bill will take charge of it.

Senator SCOTT. In other words, the fact which the Senator wants to draw out, I think, is that if this bill passes, it will take an annual appropriation to provide and care for it.

Mr. CADWALLADER. That would be involved. The chairman of the military committee of the House preferred very much that there should be paid commissioners. The original purpose was that there should be no compensation, in the idea that the office was such that very suitable persons would be only too glad to serve without pay; but with the view that this reservation should be of utility as well as of sentimental interest, it is probable that that would not be a burden.

Senator BURROWS. Then, as I understand you—I want to be clear about that—the representatives of this organization have no interest in the matter except a patriotic interest, and the association is purely voluntary.

Mr. CADWALLADER. That is correct. They have no other interest whatever.

Senator BURROWS. And you are simply presenting your views here because you think it ought to be made a national park?

Mr. CADWALLADER. We are stating why we think action should be taken at this time to preserve this historic spot. Perhaps a greater interest attaches to it at this time owing to the last message of the President of the United States, who has suggested the uses of property of this sort in connection with our military organizations.

I will briefly state the facts. The whole of this tract upon which the Revolutionary army was encamped in 1777–78 remains to-day almost untouched. In that respect I imagine it is the most interesting tract of land existing in all of the large States of the Union, being substantially in the condition in which it was one hundred and twenty-five years ago. For some reason that is hardly accountable, the march of progress and the increase in population have made comparatively few changes. The country is beautifully situated and easily reached by railways. In the immediate vicinity the most valuable portions of the suburban district around Philadelphia exist, and there land has reached prices of $10,000 an acre. Here, within easy riding and walking distance of property so valuable, by a most fortunate combination of circumstances this particular land along the beautiful Schuylkill River and the Chester Valley Creek has remained untouched. Values have continued to be low.

Some years ago the State of Pennsylvania, seeing the conditions which existed, appointed a commission and made an appropriation to acquire a portion of it, and the State now holds about 220 acres, including a very interesting portion of the fortifications and redoubts, which are in better preservation than those on the battlefield of Gettysburg to-day, existing substantially as they were thrown up one hundred and twenty-five years ago. Another organization has secured Washington's Headquarters and preserved them, and one of the provisions of this bill is that those two reservations are, of course, to be ceded to the General Government by the State. The bill provides for their cession to the United States.

Senator BATE. Without compensation?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Oh, yes; without compensation, and upon that cession only is this bill to take effect.

Senator BURROWS. Let me understand what is reserved and preserved there now. You speak of two associations.

Mr. CADWALLADER. There is a little pamphlet here which explains that.

Senator BURROWS. What did Pennsylvania do? How much land did the State of Pennsylvania buy?

Mr. CADWALLADER. It has bought about 200 acres.

Senator BURROWS. Embracing what?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Embracing the summit of Mount Joy, the inner line of intrenchments, the camping ground of Maxwell's New Jersey troops, and also General Washington's Headquarters, just down at the entrance to the road which leads up to this main tract.

Senator BURROWS. Is the State of Pennsylvania taking care of that each year?

Mr. CADWALLADER. In a moderate way. That has been the difficulty, though. They are now laying out some roads with a view to preserving it and making it more accessible, and it is free from any danger of being destroyed. It is under the protection of the State.

Senator BURROWS. Or of being absorbed by private parties?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Or of being absorbed by private parties.

Senator BURROWS. So it is perfectly secure?

Mr. CADWALLADER. That part is perfectly secure. And now I wish to call attention to this point, that I hope action will be taken speedily, if it is to be taken, by the Government. That land was acquired by the State of Pennsylvania under condemnation proceedings. That which has been thus acquired is the most attractive historically, perhaps, or as interesting as any, and I am sure the value has been now ascertained by law, and there is not a private interest in any part of the remaining tract of about 1,200 acres that we think will bring a higher price than was obtained by these other parties. We urge that this tract of 1,200 acres should be taken because it includes most of the ground occupied by the various divisions of State troops in 1777. The condemnation proceedings under which the State of Pennsylvania acquired the land which it has were contested seriously and every effort was made to obtain as high figures as possible, but owing to the delay in the development the ascertained value is very limited indeed. Including all the improvements that were taken—farms, buildings, farmhouses, and everything—the average value of the land was only $145 an acre. Now, that land, as a mere matter of purchase, will be worth $500 or $1,000 an acre inevitably in five or ten years.

Senator BATE. How far is it from Philadelphia?

Mr. CADWALLADER. About 18 miles.

Senator SCOTT. You say that there are about 1,200 acres which should be acquired?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Yes.

Senator SCOTT. Have you an option on that at any price?

Mr. CADWALLADER. A great many of the owners are representatives of the old colonial families, and they are not making any objections to selling their property; but my own judgment is that it would be wiser generally to take the land under condemnation, by which you can secure it at a fair and reasonable price.

Senator BURROWS. I want to ask you about the ownership of Washington's headquarters and many points of interest. You say they are preserved to-day and owned by the State of Pennsylvania?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Yes; recently acquired.

Senator BURROWS. And they are building roads?

Mr. CADWALLADER. There is one road being opened now. It has not been developed to any extent.

Senator BURROWS. They are improving it to some extent?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Yes.

Senator BURROWS. They have it in charge?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Yes; there is a commission. I served on that commission in the outset.

Senator BURROWS. A State commission?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Yes.

Senator BURROWS. And that commission is looking after it?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Yes.

Senator BURROWS. And that is at great expense?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Yes.

Senator BURROWS. You speak of an association having purchased some ground.

Mr. CADWALLADER. That was the Washington Headquarters Association, which is separate and distinct from the others. The land which it has purchased is separate and distinct from the land taken by the State.

Senator BURROWS. That has been purchased?

Mr. CADWALLADER. That has been purchased and is in charge of this association and beautifully taken care of by it. They also would cede that.

Senator BURROWS. What is that organization?

Mrs. O. LA FOREST PERRY. The title of that is "The Centennial Association." That was organized at the Centennial, during 1876.

Mr. CADWALLADER. I thank you for that information. I had forgotten the title.

Senator BURROWS. How much land did they acquire?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Just a very few acres.

Mrs. PERRY. Not over 2 acres.

Mr. CADWALLADER. I think it does not include 2 acres. It is very small—just the land around the house. Those who were in charge of these details are detained on the train.

Senator BURROWS. Besides Washington's headquarters and the territory acquired by the State of Pennsylvania, what else do you think we ought to have?

Mr. CADWALLADER. All the tract that is proposed to be taken by the General Government was occupied by the various State troops and encampments.

Senator BURROWS. You propose to buy all the land that the soldiers camped on?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Very nearly all; all that is immediately contiguous and adjacent, which can now be bought at a very low price.

Senator BURROWS. It makes a larger field. But if you have preserved Washington's headquarters and the State of Pennsylvania has acquired this other land, does not that cover the points of principal historic interest?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Lafayette's headquarters are of great interest.

Senator BURROWS. Are they outside of the tract owned by the State of Pennsylvania?

Mr. CADWALLADER. They are outside of that. None of the main body of the encampment was included in that purchase. It was more to preserve the fortifications and redoubts that the State has purchased what it did. Those being in excellent preservation were secured first, and it was hoped that this would be extended; but the matter is perhaps too large in its scope for the State, and it is felt that this is a matter of more general interest to the country at large, and that it ought not to be monopolized by any State. That is the feeling.

Now, owing to the fact that these land values are ascertained, that they are moderate, that this land can be used for any encampment of troops at any time for the Army, we deem it important that this should be acquired by the National Government. Those looking to the remote future, who might anticipate trouble in possible wars with foreign

powers, will readily see that the location of Valley Forge, as selected by Gen. Anthony Wayne and recommended by him to George Washington, would again become a very important point of defense and position. The landing of troops which took place then might occur again, and this point is a very important one because of the power of concentration which is offered by the location, both by main roadways and by railways of the country, in massing troops for the protection of Philadelphia. It is within two hours of New York, two hours from Baltimore, and three hours from Washington, and is also accessible through the plains of New Jersey, as well as from Pennsylvania and New York.

Now, the appropriation suggested is $200,000. Those who are residents there and who know the values feel satisfied that that will acquire this entire tract. There can scarcely be a question of its value as an acquisition in any view that is taken of it, not only the sentimental one, which is extremely great, but the practical one.

I do not desire to occupy the time of the committee by indulging in the language which thoughts of Valley Forge usually call forth. There has been a great deal written about it. Perhaps the most eloquent and interesting description of Valley Forge and its value is in the oration delivered by the late Henry Armat Brown on the opening of Washington's headquarters. It contains a very full and accurate historical statement, and appeals to everyone. If it is not familiar to the committee, I think it would be wise to let a copy be before you. I will try to furnish it to you. Have you ever seen the oration of Henry Armat Brown upon Valley Forge, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. I saw it at the time. I knew Mr. Brown very well. I was going to ask you whether it is published in pamphlet form and can be produced.

Mr. CADWALLADER. It is in pamphlet form and book form. It was published with his other orations after his death; but there are pamphlet editions of it also, which would be more convenient, and I should like to submit it to the consideration of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. I should like to supply the committee with copies.

Mr. CADWALLADER. I will see if it can be obtained.

The CHAIRMAN. Now I see here a very interesting specification of forts and huts and redoubts, the positions of State troops, etc., marked on this map. For instance, Woodford's Virginia troops, Scott's Virginia troops, General Wayne's troops, Poor's New York troops, Glover's Massachusetts troops, Learned's New Hampshire troops, Patterson's Vermont troops, Weedon's Virginia troops, Muhlenberg's Virginia troops; also, the Commissary-General's headquarters, John Moore's fort, General Huntington's headquarters, the location of the Connecticut troops, the grave of John Waterman, and the "traditional burying ground." Now all these things are indicated here. What I wish to ask is this, is the tradition true? Is this verified by history?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Every line of it. I do not think there is a historical doubt about it.

The CHAIRMAN. Take, for example, the troops of any State. Are there any huts remaining, or any breastworks, or anything of that sort, anything to indicate the position?

Mr. CADWALLADER. There were various plans of Valley Forge made at the time, upon which these blue prints are based.

Senator SCOTT. The question of the chairman is whether there are any marks of these encampments at the present time.

Mr. CADWALLADER. I do not think there are any remains of the buildings that were occupied by the troops.

Mrs. PERRY. The foundations of some of the huts are still there.

The CHAIRMAN. This lady tells me that the foundations of the huts are still traceable, perfectly distinguishable.

Mr. CADWALLADER. In some cases they are identified.

Mrs. PERRY. We have also proved the location of the burying ground of the soldiers. It was traditional until the society erected a monument there. It was supposed to be the burying ground of the troops, and upon examination of the ground, that was found to be correct.

Senator SCOTT. These places are all marked on this map in the small book. The only question is whether this is a copy of an old map or whether there is anything on the ground to show where the places actually were.

Mr. CADWALLADER. The locations are well ascertained, and there are old surveys which have been utilized in that connection. You will see that General Muhlenberg's headquarters is perhaps the most extreme outlying point that is proposed to be taken.

The CHAIRMAN. Was that the right or left of the American line?

Mr. CADWALLADER. That was on the right, as you look at it. Then, you see, John Moore's fort here is on the other side.

Senator BATE. Don't you think it would be wise to get an option on this land before any official action was taken on the part of the Government, so as not to allow the price to go up to too high a point?

Mr. CADWALLADER. I think a great many of them would accept the valuation that has been ascertained, rather than go to the expense of litigation to ascertain it; but as soon as the authority is granted to the commissioners they no doubt will take the necessary steps.

Senator BATE. I do not intend to intimate that there is any person who owns land who would take advantage of the Government, but we have had trouble in some of these parks in getting the land, because the parties have asked so much more money than the Government would give. Therefore I think it wise to have that understood, if you can.

Senator SCOTT. On this map I see the names of a good many property owners. Are those the names of the present owners?

Mr. CADWALLADER. As I understand it, they are the names of the original owners. They are not the present owners.

Mrs. PERRY. The names in the small type are the present owners, with the boundaries of their holdings indicated by dotted lines. The names in large type are the original owners at the time of the encampment, and the heavy lines are the boundaries of their property. That is an actual copy of the Valley Forge as it was in 1896. That survey was made by a surveyor of Bryn Mawr for the Valley Forge National Park Association. I had an interview with the surveyor, who seemed to be a very conscientious gentleman, and he said he had put nothing on the map except what he had an authentic reason for placing there.

I was there myself about six months ago, and Mr. Maurice Stevens, a gentleman who owns the land where General Varnum's headquarters were, and also the land that is marked there where Washington went across, said that he would sell the 165 acres which he owned for $30,000—offered it to us for that.

Senator BATE. How many hundred acres?

Mrs. PERRY. 165 acres for $30,000. He owns the land on which General Varnum's headquarters were, which, as I said, is of course very important.

Senator SCOTT. Do I understand you that the location of these headquarters can only be determined by the survey, or can they be discovered by the old foundations and the old landmarks? Have the old landmarks all disappeared?

Mrs. PERRY. They have not all disappeared. Some of the locations can be actually determined by the old foundations, but of course some of them can only be determined from the old surveys.

Mr. CADWALLADER. There is practically no doubt as to the facts, and there is no desire to acquire an inch of territory that is not historically interesting as well as of practical utility. If the commission find that any tract of land is lacking in these features they need not take it. Their power should be broad in that respect. It was hoped that there would be an opportunity for the members of this committee to visit the spot.

Senator BATE. Do you know what that 200 acres cost that is now owned by the State of Pennsylvania?

Mr. CADWALLADER. It averaged $145 an acre, including the buildings.

Senator BATE. And this other land of which you speak you think can now be bought at the same price?

Mr. CADWALLADER. It ought not to cost any more, and the evidence submitted as to the values of the land acquired by the State of Pennsylvania is applicable to the rest of the land, and if acted upon now it can be determined, because there is no other evidence to change it. I suppose there were at least ten legal actions which were contested, in which every one of the incidents or elements of value was gone over, and nothing has occurred since to change the value. It is nothing but farming land, and not of a very good quality, but attention has been called to it, and it is a very attractive region for country seats.

Senator SCOTT. It is very hilly, is it not, with steep hillsides?

Mr. CADWALLADER. Rolling and hilly. The picture over the doorway in this committee room is quite a fair representation of the topography of the country.

Senator SCOTT. I presume a number of the Senators have been there.

Senator BATE. I have not been there.

Senator SCOTT. I have.

Mr. CADWALLDER. Then, Senator Scott, you have seen these earthworks, have you?

Senator SCOTT. Some of them.

Mr. CADWALLADER. They are in a very remarkable state of preservation—almost perfect. Now, I should like to ask leave for some of these ladies to be heard. I should like, if the committee will allow me, to introduce one of the representatives of the Daughters of the Revolution.

The CHAIRMAN. Very well.

Mr. CADWALLADER. Mrs. Nathaniel Seaver Keay, first vice-president-general of the Daughters of the Revolution, would like to be heard.

STATEMENT OF MRS. NATHANIEL SEAVER KEAY, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT-GENERAL, DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

Mrs. KEAY. Mr. Chairman, the members of the society which I represent have watched this matter with the deepest interest. Very nearly five years ago the Daughters of the Revolution assembled in Philadelphia, appointed representatives chosen from every State in the Union to consider this matter. There were representatives of our society from Colorado, from the far-away State of Washington, from the Middle West, and from the South, as well as from New England. Many of those who entered our association were eligible because of the service of their ancestors at Valley Forge. They said then that Valley Forge belonged to them, that it should belong to the nation, and that Pennsylvania alone should not own it. So the committee was appointed to arrange for this petition before Congress.

But this occurred just at the time that there were murmurings of war, and we felt that the thoughts of Congress would be given to other things, and that it was useless to present our bill at that time. So we waited very anxiously, for there were so many rumors of changes there. As Mr. Cadwallader has said, it is really almost providential that that place has been preserved for one hundred and twenty-five years as it has. I think if we do not do something now we shall be marked as at least a thoughtless if not an ungrateful nation.

At the last session of Congress we did introduce this bill, but we had little hope of definite action then on account of it being the short session. We now hope most earnestly that you will give it such consideration as will bring it out of your committee. We feel sure that if it once comes before the Senate and House it will meet with the general approval of the two Houses.

The Daughters of the Revolution have personally interested their Representatives and Senators through their own members in almost every district in the country, and I can say that with only one exception it has been universally agreed that this was the correct and proper thing for us to do.

Last fall we dedicated a monument on the only grave which is still visible there. There is one grave which through all these years has been kept intact, the grave of Captain Waterman, of Rhode Island. The owner of that land, nearly five years ago, presented our organization with that tract on condition that we would place a monument there, which was dedicated on the 19th of last October. We had very much hoped that some members of this body might have been present, for we felt that if you would visit Valley Forge you would be as much interested as we are in its everlasting preservation.

As Mrs. Perry has said, when we excavated for the monument we exhumed the remains there buried and they were reinterred under the monument, so that what had always been spoken of as the traditional burying ground where Waterman lay proved to be the actual burying ground.

We do not feel that Valley Forge should be a place of many monuments, but we feel that if you will simply take the ground now, while, as Mr. Cadwallader has said, it can be obtained at low prices, the Government will discover that it is a most favorable place for some commemoration of the past. We very much hope that the commission

appointed by the War Department will look at Valley Forge with that in view. There could certainly be no monument erected there that could pay the tribute to Washington and his men that those hills and valleys will forever pay to their memory. No inscription could be written on any monument that would be such a lesson to all the future that could equal the story that is mutely told by those hills.

Gentlemen of the committee, we should like it very much if some time, at your convenience, we could arrange to have you visit Valley Forge. We feel that you would be personally repaid, and that further argument on our bill would be unnecessary. We should be very glad to make arrangements for your comfort. We have all the practical information possible there. We have this matter very deeply at heart. On this map you will see how much of historical interest remains. To begin with, it is a most beautiful tract of country, looking over the valleys, the rolling hills, and the quiet river. They are talking now of trolley lines and better railroad facilities. We fear the time will be very short before it all will be taken up for fine summer residences. There are two or three there already. You know that this tract includes the headquarters of Generals Wayne, Huntington, Varnum, and Poor, besides the headquarters of Lafayette. They are all those good, old-fashioned Pennsylvania houses, built of substantial stone, fit to face another century as they have faced the last one. They are very interesting to visit, and there has always been a good deal of sentiment there that has kept them in repair and in substantially the same condition as they were at that time.

Now, if there is anything practical that I can tell you in regard to the place, I shall be glad to do so.

Senator BATE. You are very practical when you invite us up there.

Senator PROCTOR. I understand you that the houses are standing without material change.

Mrs. KEAY. Without material change.

Senator BATE. We can not afford to go up there while you are trying to get Congress to appropriate $200,000.

Mrs. KEAY. You will think $200,000 very small when you stop to think how much we owe to that past. And when we are extending our interests so greatly, it is all the more important that we should anchor very fast to our wonderful history.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

Mrs. KEAY. We have a representative of the Maryland society here, Mrs. Thomas Hill, regent of the Maryland society, and also Mrs. MacNeill, of the Colorado society. May I say that the interests of the Daughters of the Revolution extend over the whole country. They are all back of this movement, and they have asked a few of us to speak for them to-day.

Senator SCOTT. And you are here representing the Daughters of the American Revolution?

Mrs. KEAY. Daughters of the Revolution, a smaller society than the Daughters of the American Revolution, and it is pushing the movement.

Mr. CADWALLADER. Gentlemen of the committee, allow me to introduce Mrs. Thomas Hill, State regent of the Daughters of the Revolution of Maryland.

STATEMENT OF MRS. THOMAS HILL, REGENT OF THE MARYLAND SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

Mrs. HILL. Gentlemen, we are here before you as the lineal descendants of the men and women of the Revolution, feeling a strong right to receive what we ask.

To the determination and heroism of our fathers the citizens of this country owe more than language can express. The founders of this great nation, our fathers, gave to us our Constitution, so excellent in its principles that it seems to be the product of an almost divine inspiration. It is impossible ever to honor the memory of the founders of this great Republic to any adequate degree. All the monuments we can raise can never cancel the debt we owe to them. We ask you, gentlemen, to use your influence for the establishment of a national park at Valley Forge, a ground hallowed by remembrances of a manly endurance of want, cold, and sickness more than we can comprehend.

Make this spot free of access to the people of these United States, and every visitor will receive there a lesson in patriotism.

I thank you for your attention, and I hope you will remember the bill favorably.

Mr. CADWALLADER. Let me introduce Mr. Richmond L. Jones, representing the Sons of the Revolution.

STATEMENT OF MR. RICHMOND L. JONES.

Mr. JONES. Just a word, if you please. I only want to say in answer to the question asked by Senator Burrows of Mr. Cadwallader (which indicated perhaps the idea that the important things were provided for), that what has been done is only tentative, in order to rescue the headquarters of Washington from spoliation. A small association was organized to purchase the property by voluntary contribution. That society has no means of keeping up the property except by mere voluntary contributions of citizens.

As to the State of Pennsylvania acquiring the other property, that movement was really tentative. It was in order to preserve the redoubts as they are, to prevent their destruction. There are no appropriations for the restoration of it, but all that has been done has been for the preservation of it; and although it is within the lines of the State of Pennsylvania, that State does not feel at all as if this were Pennsylvania property, but would be very glad to cede it to the United States.

If there is any field among all the historic fields of the Revolution that is national in its character, why, certainly, Valley Forge is preeminent.

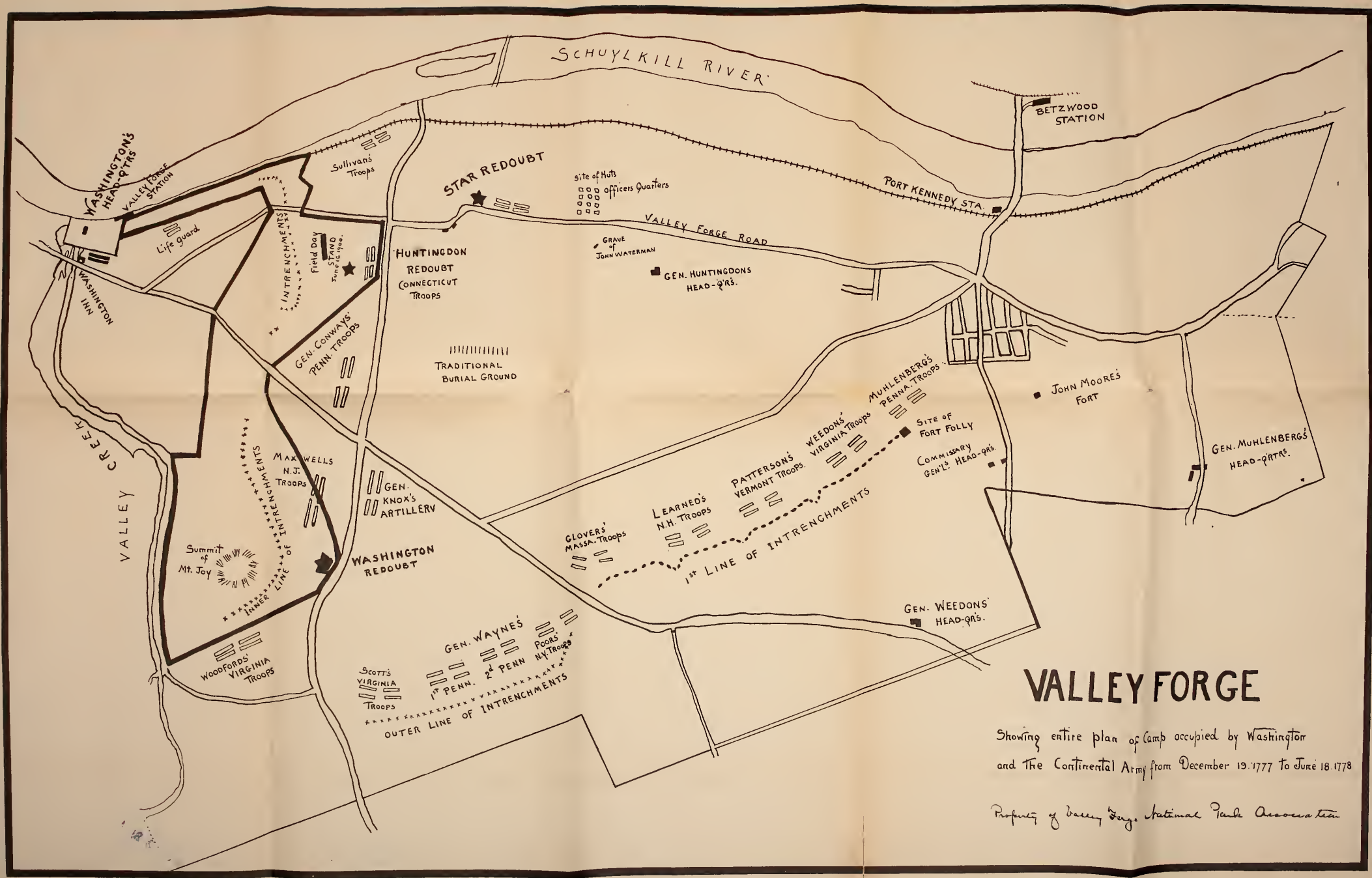
I merely wish to say that so that the opinion may not obtain that any provision has been made for it. This is merely temporary in its character, both as to this Washington Headquarters Association and as to the action of the State of Pennsylvania.

Senator BATE. Does anyone else desire to be heard?

Mr. CADWALLADER. I should like to say that others who were to have been here have been detained on the railroad by the storm. There is one thing I wish to emphasize, and that is, that there is not

an individual interest here, there is no one looking for a commissionership. It is purely a disinterested, and I think, intelligent presentation of an object very widespread in its interest. These societies are represented all over the country, and there has been but one unanimous sentiment in favor of this proposition. I hope that will be distinctly understood, and that the time is now ripe, because if action is postponed values will increase and make it unreasonable to ask. To-day this land can be obtained at such a price that if the Government does not want it, an hour afterwards it can get a return of every dollar and more.

Thereupon the committee (at 12 o'clock noon) adjourned.



VALLEY FORGE

Showing entire plan of Camp occupied by Washington and The Continental Army from December 19. 1777 to June 18. 1778

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